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THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 1954

Cold and overcast this morning. I went at ten o'clock to the Palazzo Chigi to see Count Zoppi, Secretary General of the Foreign Office. He is intelligent, sophisticated and able -- a North Italian. I told him, as I had Pella last night, what confusion would be caused now by any attempt to change the text (as suggested by Guaroni, according to Le Monde) of the EDC Treaty.

From there I went to the Embassy and told Durbrow, Wilkinson, Stabler and others of my conversations last night and this morning.

Next I called on Harry Luce at his Time office. He brooded aloud about the Italian situation. I did the same and enjoyed our conversation.

Lunch at home with the Clarkes. E. accompanied me to the airport, whence I departed on a Pan American clipper at 3:40, sorrowfully leaving her behind for a few more days with dear Virginia.

We made a fast trip, three hours, to Paris. As we neared Orly and lost height we ran into a formidable gale, and the big ship groaned and slithered. It was raining hard tonight in Paris.

At nine-thirty, to the frantic baying of the two-dog pack, Tommy, Ridgway, and Stan Cleveland came to see me. We worked until midnight over three telegrams to the Department, outlining a suggested course of action to stimulate the French Government to precipitate a debate on the EDC treaty before Easter. We will go over them again tomorrow morning and, with the six h difference in time, they should reach Washington before the opening of business. They require, if the suggestions in them are accepted, a coordinated policy on the part of the U.S., U.K., and Bonn Governments.

The boys vainly waited up for E. but ~~at last slept as if drugged.~~

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